USRIO+20

AGENDA SPOTLIGHT

Demo Alley Speed Geeking

Thursday, February 2, 2012
3:30 – 5:30 pm
(Oberndorf Event Center, 3rd floor North Bldg.)

Demo Alley, also known as "speed geeking," is a participation-fueled experience used to quickly view a number of presentations in a short timeframe, employing an approach similar to speed-dating.

OBJECTIVES

In this session, approximately 30 different organizations that use technology for development will explain their work in fast-paced demonstrations to small groups of conference participants. It serves as a springboard, in a very brief time, for participants to discuss the range of innovation that can be applied in development. Once exposed to these technologies, participants will be able to pursue interests in specific technologies and areas throughout the course of the conference.

ISSUES TO EXPLORE

- How is low cost, easy-to-implement technology being used to further specific development goals?
- What is needed in this field to increase the use and implementation of connection technologies for development?
- Which is the right low cost technology for a particular region or job?
- How can this technology (mobile phones, texting, geospatial data mapping) help achieve other development goals?
- Can this solution be implemented in a different context or in my country?

- What are existing challenges in connection technologies in terms of identifying problems, technology, funding, or access?

MODALITIES

The Demo Alley Speed Geeking will be moderated by Noel Dickover, Senior New Media Advisor at the U.S. Department of State.

Approximately 30 technology groups will be arranged around a big room at separate tables and identified with a table tent (e.g., Ushahidi). The conference participants will be divided into groups as they enter the room. The groups will spread out and attach themselves to different tables, and when the moderator calls, "Go!" the presentations start.

The tech presenters do not use PowerPoint or any similar lecture style, but instead describe the company's work in a few minutes in the form of a story or anecdote. They might show some pictures from a laptop or tablet; they will leave around two minutes after their presentation for questions.

At the end of five minutes, the moderator counts down from 10 and then calls out "Stop! Switch!" and the groups rotate clockwise to the next table, where they hear the next five minute presentation. This process continues for an hour, at the end of which each group will have heard about 10 presentations.

It is critical that all participants stick with their group during the formal Speed Geeking sessions. There will be time at the end of the Speed Geeking for participants to walk around and question tech groups they did not get to hear from, or go back to tables to pursue more in depth discussion.

TECH GROUPS PRESENTING

ArcGIS Online – a complete, cloud-based, collaborative content management system from Esri for working with geographic information. The platform provides an on-demand, secure, open, and configurable infrastructure for creating web maps, web-enabling your data, sharing your map, data, and applications. It includes global basemaps, data for maps, applications, configurable templates, GIS tools, and APIs for developers. Bronwyn Agrios, bagrios@esri.com

Beyond Access: Libraries powering development. How do you reach the people who can benefit from new technologies, and guide those with minimal tech literacy to gain value from the world's information without unrealistic investments in new infrastructure? In many places, public libraries connected to the internet are the answer to bridge the last mile between information and those who need it. *Ari Katz, akatz@irex.org*

CrowdFlower – A crowdsourcing Internet company that breaks large digital projects into small tasks and distributes them to workers around the world. *Lukas Biewald, Lukas@crowdflower.com*

Development Gateway – Hosts global information platforms that provide access to development knowledge, data, and resources. They implement aid information management systems so governments can make more informed decisions; they geocode aid projects to create virtual feedback loops between donors and other stakeholders. *Steve Davenport, sdavenport@developmentgateway.org*

Development Seed – Data visualization and mapping that helps organizations use data to explain complex issues by working with governments, international development groups, and the private sector. *Eric Gunderson, eric@developmentseed.org*

GeoIQ – A geospatial data management, visualization, and analysis platform that provides data analysis tools. *Andrew Turner, Andrew@fortiusone.com*

World Resources Institute – Global Forest Watch 2.0 unites technology, transparency, and human networks to mobilize faster, more effective forest conservation and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Data is sourced from a near-real-time deforestation alert system, complementary satellite data and systems, mobile technology, World Resource Institute's maps, Google Earth Engine, and the networked world. Information about forest destruction anywhere in the world will be updated every 16 days and in a form that supports corrective action. *Nigel Sizer, nsizer@wri.org*

Grameen Foundation Technology Center – Develops mobile phone-based solutions that address the critical needs of remote, economically disenfranchised populations, focusing on Mobile Health, Mobile Agriculture, Mobile Livelihoods, and Mobile Financial Services. *Heather Thorne*, hthorne@grameenfoundation.org

Grassroots Mapping – A group of activists, educators, technologists, and community organizers and part of the Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science, interested in new ways to promote action, intervention, and awareness through a participatory research model for independent mapping. *Jeff Warren, jeff@unterbahn.com*

The Guardian Project – Aims to create easy to use apps, open-source firmware MODs, and customized, commercial mobile phones that can be used around the world by any one looking to protect their communications and personal data from unjust intrusion and monitoring. *Nathan Freitas, Nathan@guardianproject.info*

Frontline SMS – A free mobile phone plug-in that allows you to text message with large groups of people anywhere there is a mobile signal. *Sean McDonald, sean@frontlinesms.com*

InSTEDD — designs and uses open source technology tools to enhance collaboration and improve information flow to deliver critical services to vulnerable populations. They launched innovation laboratories or "iLabs" in Southeast Asia and Latin America for collaborative engineering and entrepreneurial innovation. *Dennis Israelski, Israelski@Stanford.edu*

Inveneo – with in-country partners they design and deliver sustainable and affordable ICT solutions for organizations that provide vital services — education, healthcare, economic development — in rural and under-served areas in the developing world. *Bill Haerle,* Bill.Haerle@gmail.com and *Eric Blantz,* eric@inveneo.org

Kiva.org -- Kiva is the world's first and largest personal microlending website, enabling individuals to lend as little as $25 to help create opportunity for borrowers around the world. *Beth Kuenstler*, Beth@kiva.org

Medic Mobile – They develop and extend existing open-source platforms to support community health worker coordination and management; community mobilization for vaccination and satellite clinics; logistics and supply chain management; referrals; routine data collection; and mapping of health services. *Josh Nesbit, joshuanesbit@gmail.com*

Mercy Corps – A global aid agency focused on disaster areas. They serve an area for extended periods of time to foster local entrepreneurship, rebuild social capital, and stimulate markets through "cash for work" programs and a variety of lending models. *Cameron Peake, cpeake@dc.mercycorps.org*

Mountain Hazelnuts – when faced with the challenge of collecting timely and accurate data across widely dispersed fields in remote areas in the Bhutanese Himalayas, Mountain Hazelnuts launched its mobile-based Remote Monitoring and Traceability System to collect social and environmental baseline information from its partner farmers, agro-climatic and tree health statistics, and other critical data to analyze and include in their traceability database. All data is tied to individual fields and farmers, allowing auditable records and full visibility into previously unmanageable supply chains. Justin Finnegan, jfinnegan@mountainhazelnuts.com

NetHope – organizes a collaboration of 34 leading international humanitarian organizations that work together to solve problems and share knowledge, in order to help ensure their members have access to the best information and communication technology and practices when serving people in the developing world. *Tina Lee, tina.lee@nethope.org, Colene McBeth, colene.mcbeth@nethope.org*

Nexleaf Analytics – collects data on environment, climate change, and public health. By combining the ubiquity of mobile networks with sophisticated server-side analytics, they are transforming regular mobile phones into leading-edge data collection instruments. *Nithya Ramanathan, nithya@nexleaf.org*

NextDrop - Provides households with accurate and timely information about local piped water delivery over cell phones in India. The information is from water utility employees who call NextDrop's interactive voice response system when they open valves to distribute water. Crowd-sourcing is used to verify the accuracy of utility reports and create a feedback loop, introducing visibility for engineers in the water utility. *Ashish Jhina, jhina_ashish@gsb.stanford.edu*

QuestionBox - an Open Mind initiative that helps people find answers to everyday questions in areas with limited internet access. Easily-accessed information is available in local languages via telephone hotlines connected to live operators, and uses SMS, mobile and solar technologies off the grid. Rose Shuman, roseshuman@questionbox.org.

Samasource – brings dignified, computer-based work opportunities to people in poverty. They secure contracts from customers to provide data entry, digitization, content moderation, and other outsourcing services. The work is divided into smaller "microwork" done by a distributed workforce. Leila Janah, *Leila@samasource.org*

Solar Sister – eradicates energy poverty by empowering women with economic opportunity, combining solar technology with a woman-centered direct sales network to bring light, hope, and opportunity to remote communities in rural Africa. *Katherine Lucey, Lucey.katherine@gmail.com*

Souktel – designs and delivers mobile phone services that link people with jobs and connect aid agencies with communities who need help. *Jacob Korenblum, Jacob@souktel.com*

SourceTrace - The eServices Everywhere™ (ESE™) platform sets the industry standard for remote data transaction systems, bringing e-services from central offices to end-users using networked devices even in remote, low-bandwidth environments. ssellers@sourcetrace.com

Ushahidi -- A non-profit tech company that develops free and open source software for information collection, visualization and interactive mapping. *Heather Leson, hleson@ushahidi.com* and Nathaniel Manning, nat@ushahidi.com

Yahoo! Business & Human Rights Program – Protects users' rights to free expression and privacy around the world; identifies innovative solutions to human rights challenges; and promotes the Internet, media and technology as platforms to inform, inspire, connect and amplify diverse voices. Ebele Okobi, ebele@yahoo-inc.org